establishment of baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting/auditing and IT based consumer service centers and Part-B is regular distribution strengthening projects. The objective of the scheme is to reduce the AT&C losses to 15% in the project areas at the end of the scheme. Initially funds will be provided as loan, which will be converted into grant on achieving the AT&C loss reduction targets. 1022 projects at the cost of Rs.3561.93 crore have been approved and Rs.584.31 crores have been released by Power Finance Corporation to fifteen states under Part-A of the scheme.

Shortage of coal in NTPC plants

3315. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is running shortage of coal and some of its plants have reached a super critical stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stock available with various plants of NTPC;

(c) whether NTPC is diversifying and entering into hydro power also and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NTPC is going to bid for coal blocks abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the thermal power plants of NTPC are reportedly running short of coal. Power plant-wise details of coal stock at their coal based stations as on 28.07.2009 are given below:

Power Station	Capacity (MW)	Coal Stock	
		Thousand Tonne	Days
1	2	3	4
Badarpur TPS	705	72	5
Dadri (NCTPP)	840	99	7
Rihand STPS	2000	393	11
Singrauli STPS	2000	737	24
Tanda TPS	440	163	20
Unchahar TPS	1050	167	9
Korba STPS	2100	124	4

1	2	3	4
Sipat STPS	1000	56	4
Vindhyachal STPS	3260	672	13
Ramagundam STPS	2600	676	18
Simhadri STPS	1000	54	3
Kahalgaon STPS	1840	31	1
Talcher (OID)	470	118	15
Talcher STPS	3000	42	1
Farakka STPS	1600	18	1

It may be seen from the above that coal stocks at Farakka STPS, Kahalgaon STPS and Talcher STPS are super critical (less than 4 days stock).

(c) Yes, Sir. NTPC has moved ahead to diversify its portfolio across the entire energy value chain. Diversification into hydropower, which would help NTPC in bundled pricing and peak demand management in the future portfolio, is in accordance with these objectives.

In order to give impetus to hydro power growth in the country and to have a balanced portfolio of power generation, NTPC forayed into hydro power business by taking up the 800 MW Koldam Hydro Project in Himachal Pradesh. Further, three more projects have also been taken up in Uttarakhand, namely, Loharinag Pala, Tapovan Vishnugad and Rupsiabagar-Khasiabara Hydro Power Project. In addition, NTPC Hydro Limited, a wholly-owned Subsidiary of NTPC, is setting up two hydro projects, *viz*., Lata Tapovan HEP in Uttarakhand and Rammam-III HEP in West Bengal.

(d) and (e) NTPC is exploring the possibility to acquire stake in the coal mines in countries like Indonesia, Mozambique, South Africa for sourcing coal supply for its power plants.

Further, joint venture company under the name of International Coal Ventures Pvt. Ltd. (ICVL) has been formed amongst Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), Coal India Ltd. (CIL), NTPC, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) for securing metallurgical coal and thermal coal assets from overseas. This company is also exploring opportunities mainly in Australia, Mozambique, Canada, Indonesia and USA.

Achievement of rural electrification targets

†3316. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been successful in achieving the target of rural electrification under Bharat Nirman;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.